Year	Projects Financed	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	26	279.46
1994-95	17	239.23
1995-96	23	345.90
1996-97	26	588.89
1997-98	49	1217.72
Total	141	2671.20

(f) Restricted Area Permits have been lifted in the case of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura only in the North Eastern States. Development of Tourism in some States

1659. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a)-Whether the tourism infrastructure in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa remains undeveloped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of Central assistance made available for tourism development during each of last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to mvovle private sector in the development of tourism infrastructure in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) to (c) The development of tourism infrasturcture is a continuous process and is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

The details of financial assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism to the State of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during the last three years were as given below:

State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Gujarat7.98	82.21	111.82	
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	119.81
Orissa	108.86	463.28	557.05

(d) and (e) It is the policy of the Government to encourage private involvement is the tourism sector. A number of incentives like income tax concessions, interest subsidy, reduced customs duty, etc. are being provided by the Union Government for this purpose. These incentives are available to the investor in Orissa also.

Boosting Tourism to Religious Places

1660. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost tourism for religious places in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of places identified for developing tourist facilities, the amount sanctioned and the target set up for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) The religious places in the country are being visited by a large number of pilgrim tourists every year. The Government develops infrastructure facilities in these pilgrim centres with the combined efforts of Central and State govts., religious institutions and private sector.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee on Pilgrim tourism the following places have been identified for the development of facilities in the first phase.

1. Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh)
2. Kamakhya (Assam)
3. Bodh Gaya and Patna Saheb (Bihar)
4. Dwaraka, Palitana and Udwad (near Vapi Gujarat)
5. Paonta Saheb and Jwalaji (Himachal Pradesh)
6. Mata Vaishno Devi (Jammu & Kashmir)
7. Sringeri and Gulbarga (Karnataka)

8. Guruvayur (Kerala)
9. Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh)
10. Shirdi, Nanded and Jyotirbah (Maharashtra)
11. Jagannath Puri (Orissa)
12. Amritsar, Anandpur Saheb (Punjab)
13. Ajmer Shareef (Rajasthan)
14. Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu)
15. Badrinath and Haridwar
16. Barsana-Nandgaon-Gokul-Mathura-Brindavan-Gowardhan,
17. Sravasti/Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh)

The development projects will be taken up on the basis of proposals received from the respective State/Union Territory Governments within the funds available and no separate allocation has been made for the same.

Incentives for Tourists in North-East

1661. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased tc state;

(a) the measures taken by Government for development of tourism industry at the state and national level;

(b) the incentives to the tourists who want to visit the North-East States, and

(c) the amounts of funds for development of infrastructure of tourism in the North-East States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) (a) The measures ta-. ken by the Union Government for the Development of Tourism in the North East include the following;

(i) Atlcast 10% of the funds provided to the Ministry of Tourism for Infrastructural Development will be utilised in North Eastern States.

(ii) A video film on tourist attractions of North East has been produced.

(ni) North Eastern States were given a free booth in the-World's largest tourism fair ITB Berlin.

(iv) Financial assistance has been provided for organising various fairs and festivals in North East.

(v) North Eastern States have been designated as the theme States for Suraj Kund Craft Mela, 1998.

(vi) North Eastern States have been given special focus in the Marketing Conference of overseas offices of the Department held during the first week of June 1997 in Delhi. All our overseas offices have been giving publicity on North East.

(vii) North Eastern States arc included in the Home page of Department of Tourism in INTRNET.

(viii) A new travel circuit Guwahati-Kaziranga Shillong-Tawang has been announced.

(b) There is no system of providing incentives by the Government to tourists to visit any place in the country.

(c) The details of funds provided for development of Tourism Infrastructure in North Eastern States during 97-98 were as given below.

State	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)
Arunachal Pradesh	271.00
Assam	288.88
Manipur	186.11
Meghalaya	85.70
Mizoram	142.45
Nagaland	116.90
Tripura	126.68
TOTAL	1217.72

Eeo-Tourism Potentialities of N.E., Region

1662. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased" to state;

(a) whether Government have studied, the eco-tourism potentialities of the North East region;